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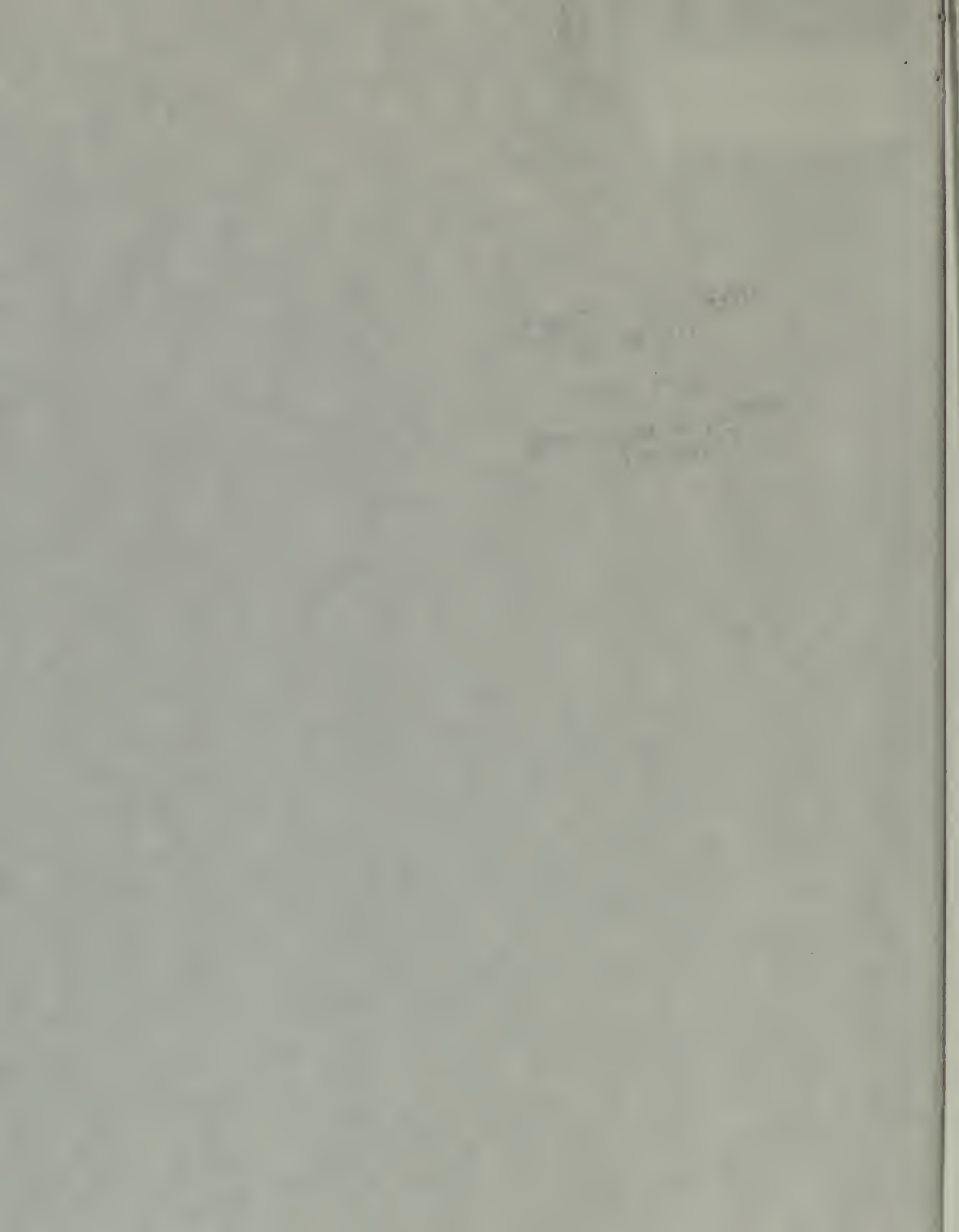
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For Release: After 12:00 noon
on Thursday, January 3, 1991

Inaugural Remarks of Lieutenant Governor Paul Cellucci

Prepared for delivery at The State House, House Chamber
Thursday, January 3, 1991

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I am honored to stand before you in this historic chamber, a place where I proudly served with many of you, my friends and colleagues. I'm humbled by the rich history and tradition which this ceremony recreates -- a history which makes me mindful of the tremendous trust that the people of Massachusetts have placed in each of us as their representatives in this, their state government.

It is a strange paradox to be part of a democratic government that has endured since the very inauguration of our country, but to serve at a time when we are called to reshape and renew the role of that government.

The start of a new year in this final decade of the 20th century should instill in all of us a renewed feeling of hope, while presenting an opportunity for reflection.

Now is the time to look back on the road that brought us here -- at the lessons learned from both our failures and our successes. And now is the time to look forward -- using what we have learned and what we have accomplished -- to pave the road we will take tomorrow.

And that road will, by necessity and by design, take this Commonwealth in a new direction.

The very meaning of the word inauguration is a beginning. And, on this day, in this administration, that meaning is literal as well as symbolic.

Because today we must acknowledge that the road ahead won't be easy. And we must understand that instead of dwelling on the problems which have divided us, we must now focus on the solutions that will move us forward.

No one of us can find these solutions alone. Families and neighborhoods, teachers and businesses, political parties and community leaders, must work together with a vision and with a hope for the Massachusetts of tomorrow.

And truly, times of change are times of challenge. Right now in Massachusetts, we face plenty of both. Bill Weld and I, with your help, will begin the task of reshaping state government. It is a task we believe can be accomplished without abandoning government's basic obligations to the people who have chosen us to lead them.

For I don't believe that we must choose between compassion and competence. Nor do we have to choose between encouraging private enterprise and protecting the public interest. Government, at its best, can do both.

*We can provide for the safety and health of our citizens without intruding in their private lives;

*We can ensure that our children receive a quality education designed for the world we live in, while leaving to families and communities the task of teaching them the values that make this world a better place in which to live;

*We can protect and preserve our rich natural resources without stunting the growth that will make our economy rich in employment;

*And we can ensure that the neediest of our citizens have access to services that a just society must provide within the resources that the taxpayers can provide.

And surely the next four years will also present us with new problems to solve and old solutions that must evolve in order to remain effective.

* We must defend, and find ways to help, working parents in balancing the harsh demands of the workplace with the incessant ones of the home. We will be particularly sensitive to the needs of working women, many of whom found that in the 1980's having it all often meant doing it all.

* We must find a way to bring health care costs under control while ensuring that every citizen has access to basic health care services.

* We must put an end to the rampant wave of violence that has claimed our streets and our neighborhoods.

* And we must remain where we have always marched, in the vanguard of racial justice and equal opportunity. Where crimes of hate or patterns of discrimination occur, no one will speak out more forcefully than I.

As daunting as the tasks before us may seem, Massachusetts is blessed with a rich history and a tradition of change. Indeed, here in this very Commonwealth, we inaugurated our great country -- a country which has prospered on the ingenuity and boldness of its people.

Nowhere is that spirit of boldness and ingenuity better reflected than here in Massachusetts: in our unequalled institutions of higher learning; in our cutting edge technologies; in our advanced medical facilities; and, indeed, in the boldness and ingenuity of the very people who have chosen to make Massachusetts their home.

And while none of these blessings diminish the very real challenges before us, they should give each of us faith in our ability to move forward; to fulfill the vision of state government that is the inheritance of our forefathers and the hope of the people who brought us here.

Ultimately, leadership rests on the people's hope and vision, on a leader's willingness to listen, and on our ability to represent the breadth and diversity of the governed.

The people of Massachusetts have sought and found the leadership that the times demand. They have elected a governor who will guide them through this difficult period and set Massachusetts on a new and prosperous course in the closing years of this tumultuous century.

I am honored to serve you, the citizens of Massachusetts, as your lieutenant governor and to work side by side with Governor Weld to set this new course.

